

2026 Girls Cross-Town Softball League Rule Reference Chart

(Des Plaines / ESAA / Niles / Norwood Park / Oriole Park / Park Ridge / Norridge)

	K - 2 GRADE	3 - 4 GRADE	5 - 6 GRADE	7 - 8 - 9 GRADE (9 th graders can't play on any HS team)
General Rules				
Min. # of Players	6 to start / no outs against	7 to start / no outs against	7 to start / no outs against	7 to start / no outs against
Ball	11" Safety ball	11" Softball	12" Softball	12" Softball
Length of Bases	50 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.
Pitching distance	30 ft.	35 ft.	40 ft.	43 ft.
Regulation Games	6 innings	6 innings	6 innings	6 innings
Game Limits	No new inning 1 hour 45 minutes after 1 st pitch. Drop dead time is 8pm on school nights.	No new inning 1 hour 45 minutes after 1 st pitch. Drop dead time is 8pm on school nights.	No new inning 1 hour 45 minutes after 1 st pitch unless it's a weekend game or played on a field with lights. Drop dead time is 8pm on school nights.	No new inning 1 hour 45 minutes after 1 st pitch unless it's a weekend game or played on a field with lights.
Mercy Rule	None	None	10 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 4 innings
Number of Fielders	10, including Short Center who must start 10 ft. behind 2 nd base when pitch is thrown	10, including Short Center who must start 10 ft. behind 2 nd base when pitch is thrown	9	9
Inning Ends	3 outs, batting order, or 5 runs, whichever 1st. (except 6th inning or mutually agreed upon last inning)	3 outs or 5 runs, whichever 1st (except 6th inning or mutually agreed upon last inning)	3 outs or 5 runs, whichever 1st (except 6th inning or mutually agreed upon last inning)	3 outs or 5 runs, whichever 1st (except 6th inning or mutually agreed upon last inning)
Overthrows	No extra base	No extra base	Only 1 extra base	Advance as many bases at runners own risk
Dead Ball	In possession of an infielder in the infield.	In possession of the pitcher within the baselines.	Pitching circle or umpire's discretion	Pitching circle or umpire's discretion
Hitting / Bases				
Number of Batters	Entire Team	Entire Team	Entire Team	Entire Team
Bunting	No	Yes (Once bunt is shown the batter must bunt or pull back and take the pitch)	Yes (Once bunt is shown the batter must bunt or pull back and take the pitch)	Yes (Once bunt is shown the batter must bunt or pull back and take the pitch)
Infield Fly Rule	No	No	No	Yes
Dropped 3rd Strike	No	No	No	Yes
Stealing	No	No	2 nd and 3 rd base only, after ball crosses the plate. Runners can't advance on overthrows on a steal.	Any base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
Hit by Pitch	No Base	Awarded 1st Base if a direct hit or on one bounce, if coach not pitching	Awarded 1st Base if a direct hit or on one bounce,	Awarded 1st Base if a direct hit or on one bounce,
Lead-offs	No	After ball crosses the plate	After ball crosses the plate	After ball leaves the pitcher's hand
Pitching				
Coach Pitch	7 total pitches. Kids can pitch as many attempts as the coach allows from 30 ft.	Coach pitch after ball 4. Strike count remains the same and coach is allowed a max of 3 pitches. The at-bat continues if 3 rd pitch or any pitch thereafter is fouled off. Coaches must pitch from mound.	No	No
Inning Limits	3 innings	3 innings/game	3 innings/game	4 innings/game
Walks	No	No	Yes (No intentional walks)	Yes
Hit Batter - Remove Pitcher	N/A	2 batters (that are awarded 1st base)/inning or 3 batters/game	2 batters (that are awarded 1st base)/inning or 3 batters/game	2 batters (that are awarded 1st base)/inning or 3 batters/game
Special Notes	Kids pitch to their own team. When they pitch, they move to bottom of the batting order. No more batting tee 6/1.	Travel pitchers are allowed to pitch 2 combined innings per game. -Each inning the last out (or last player in order for 1 st inning) begins on 2 nd base.	Travel players are allowed to pitch 2 combined innings per game.	Travel pitchers are allowed to pitch 2 combined innings per game.